

South West Salop United Districts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year

1949

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ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT ✓

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE ✓

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT ✓

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT ✓

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK ✓

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CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

# GENERAL STATISTICS

The following are certain general statistics :—

ATCHAM R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid 1949	...	20,090
	Area (in acres)	...	134,465
	Number of inhabited houses	...	5,632
	Rateable value	...	£73,750
	Product of 1d. rate	...	£293
<hr/>			
BISHOP'S CASTLE M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid 1949	...	1,300
	Area (in acres)	...	1,867
	Number of inhabited houses	.....	416
	Rateable value	...	£6,130
	Product of 1d. rate	...	£24
<hr/>			
CHURCH STRETTON U.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid 1949	...	2,506
	Area (in acres)	...	6,085
	Number of inhabited houses	...	791
	Rateable value	...	£21,981
	Product of 1d rate	...	£88
<hr/>			
CLUN R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid 1949	...	9,690
	Area (in acres)	...	132,512
	Number of inhabited houses	...	2,964
	Rateable value	...	£24,258
	Product of 1d. rate	...	£96
<hr/>			
WENLOCK M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid 1949	...	14,790
	Area (in acres)	...	22,657
	Number of inhabited houses	...	4,543
	Rateable value	...	£48,313
	Product of 1d. rate	...	£187
<hr/>			
SOUTH WEST SALOP UNITED DISTRICTS	Area of the districts (in acres)		
	Population (estimated)	...	297,586
	Rateable value	...	48,376
	Number of inhabited houses	...	£174,432
			14,346

# **ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT**

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	389	203	186
Illegitimate	...	...	27	12	15
Totals	...	...	<u>416</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>201</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of population=20.7

Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	4	3	1
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births=9.5

Deaths ... .. 272 147 145

Death Rate per 1,000 of population=12.6 (corrected)

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	—	—
Totals	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

### Death of Infants under one year :

	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	11	28
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	2	74
(c) All infants per 1,000 total live births	13	31

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	34
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	1
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS : Pulmonary	...	...	...	7
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	3

## BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

## VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	23	8	15
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...		24	9	15
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Borth Rate per 1,000 of population=18.0

Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...		2	1	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births=77

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	18	6	12
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population=8.5 (corrected)

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

			No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a)	From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b)	From other puerperal causes		—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	...	Nil	Nil
			<hr/>	<hr/>

## Deaths of Infants under one year :

			No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	—	—
(b)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	—	—
(c)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	... ..	Nil	Nil

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	5
„	„ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„	„ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„	„ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
„	„ TUBERCULOSIS : Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	—
	Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	—

## CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

## VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	47	26	21
Illegitimate	...	...	2	1	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	49	27	22
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=19.5

Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births=Nil

Deaths	...	...	...	...	44	15	29
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population=11.3 (corrected)

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	...	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	Nil	Nil
		<hr/>	<hr/>

## Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	2	42
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	—	—
(c) All infants per 1,000 total live births	... ..	2	41

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS : Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	1
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	—

## CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

## VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	145	77	68
Illegitimate	...	...	13	7	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	158	84	74
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=16.3

Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	1	1	—
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	1	1	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births=6.3

Deaths	...	...	...	...	121	59	62
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population=12.5 (corrected)

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	...	1	6.3
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	1	6.3
		<hr/>	<hr/>

## Death of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	3	20
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	2	154
(c) All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	5	31

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	17
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	—
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS : Pulmonary	...	...	...	—
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	—



## BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

## VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	263	135	128
Illegitimate	...	...	16	5	11
Totals	...	...	279	140	139

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=18.8

Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	10	7	3
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	10	7	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births=34.0

Deaths	...	...	...	...	200	111	89
Death Rate per 1,000 of population=12.6 (corrected)							

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	...	—	—
Totals	...	Nil	Nil

## Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	8	28
(b) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	—	—
(c) All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	8	27

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	27
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	—
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS : Pulmonary	...	...	...	9
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief industry in the areas as a whole is agriculture but Madeley and Broseley Wards of the Wenlock Borough are urban and there are several factories employing many people in those districts. At Minsterley also in the Atcham R.D. there are two factories, a creamery and a food packing station. Church Stretton is mainly residential and also a centre for holiday makers, while Bishop's Castle is a centre for the large farming area which surrounds it. Many people who reside in the Atcham R.D. are employed in the Borough of Shrewsbury and travel daily to their work. At the present time there is little unemployment in any of the areas and the chief social problem is—as elsewhere—the shortage of houses which is acute.

The Registrar-General's figures for the population of the districts shows an increase of 269 over the previous year, i.e., for the five districts as a whole. During the ten years from 1939 the total increase in the population for the area is 2,996. The following figures show the trend of population in the district since 1939 :—

Area			Estimated population		+or—
			1939	1949	
Atcham R.D.	...	...	18,390	20,090	+1,700
Bishop's Castle	...	...	1,321	1,300	—21
Church Stretton	...	...	2,246	2,506	+260
Clun R.D.	...	...	9,753	9,690	—63
Wenlock M.B.	...	...	13,670	14,790	+1,120
S.W. Salop	...	...	45,380	48,376	+2,996

### NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

#### Births

These numbered 926, which is 31 less than in 1948 and 103 less than in the year 1947. The birth rate was 19.1. (England and Wales, 16.7). Of the total number of births 27 or 6.8% were illegitimate.

The natural increase of the population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 271.

The following are the births and birth rates for the individual districts :—

District	Total Births	Birth rate per 1,000 of population
Atcham R.D. ...	416	20.7
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	24	18.0
Church Stretton U.D....	49	19.5
Clun R.D. ...	158	16.3
Wenlock M.B. ...	279	18.8
South West Salop ...	926	19.1

### Still Births

These numbered 17 in all (Atcham 4, Bishop's Castle 2, Church Stretton 0, Clun 1, Wenlock 10), as compared with 23 and 32 in the two previous years. This gives a Still Birth Rate of 18.0 per 1,000 total births and still births.

To estimate the total loss of infant lives we must take the number of still births and of infant deaths together and calculate the rate per thousand total births. In 1949 this rate was 47 per 1,000 and this is the lowest rate so far recorded of these deaths. At the beginning of this century the loss of infant lives (either as still births or infant deaths) was nearly 200 per 1,000 births, and it will be seen that there is now a very great saving of these infants. This is, of course, due to the measures taken to care for young children and their mothers during the last forty years or so.

### Deaths

Deaths registered numbered 655 and the death rate was 13.5 per 1,000 of the population. This is the "crude" death rate and is not comparable with rates for the country or for other areas. In order to obtain the "corrected" death rate the crude rate must be multiplied by the "comparability" factor for the district concerned. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General and the following table shows the "corrected" death-rates for each district.

District	Population	Crude D.R.	Comparability Factor	Corrected D.R.
Atcham ...	20,090	13.5	0.94	12.6
Bishop's Castle ...	1,300	13.8	0.62	8.5
Church Stretton ...	2,506	17.5	0.65	11.3
Clun ...	9,690	12.5	0.82	10.2
Wenlock ...	14,790	13.5	0.94	12.6

It will be seen that at Bishop's Castle and Church Stretton the "crude" death rate is considerably reduced after the correction is made for age distribution of the population.

The death rate for England and Wales is 11.7 per 1,000.

A table showing the causes of the deaths in each area will be found at the end of the report. There was no outstanding cause of death during the year, the chief causes being Heart Diseases (244), Cancer (91) and Intra-Cranial Vascular Diseases (87), these three accounting for 66% of all the deaths.

Tuberculosis accounted for 20 deaths and this gives a low death rate from this cause. There was one death from Diphtheria this being the first for some years. The child was not immunised.

### **Infantile Mortality**

Twenty-eight infants died under one year of age and the Infantile Mortality Rate was 30 as compared with 32 for the country generally. These deaths were in Atcham (13), Church Stretton (2), Clun (5) and Wenlock (8). The ages at death were as follows:—

Under 1 day	Under 1 mth.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total under one year
9	10	3	3	2	1	28

These figures show that the loss of infants' lives is chiefly among those of under one month. If these could be saved the deaths among infants would be very few indeed.

### **Puerperal Deaths**

One death took place from puerperal causes and this gives a rate of 1.06 per 1,000 total births.

## **SECTION B**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **Staff**

The names and qualifications of the officials are given at the beginning of this report.

In the Atcham R.D. two additional Sanitary Inspectors were appointed during the year—Mr. D. H. Corfield and Mr. G. S. Banks.

At Bishop's Castle Mr. C. R. Lawless resigned at the end of the year and a successor had not yet been appointed.

In the other areas there has been no change.

#### **Laboratory Facilities**

Full use has been made during the year of the Laboratory at Shrewsbury where all the work in connection with the districts is carried out except for the chemical examinations of water samples which is done at the laboratory at Chester.

In addition to water and milk samples a large number of samples of ice cream from the various districts were sent in for examination and report. Reports are also received on samples sent in by doctors for diagnostic purposes.

The work at the laboratory is invaluable as a help to the Health Work in the districts, and thanks are due to the staff for their co-operation during the year.

#### **Ambulance Facilities**

The County Council's scheme for the ambulance services has functioned during the year and no complaints of delay in getting an ambulance have been received. In addition to the fleet of ambulances stationed at Shrewsbury there are also ambulances at Madeley, Much Wenlock, Pontesbury and at Bishop's Castle. The central ambulance depot is at Shrewsbury, telephone number, Cross Houses 242. At Bishop's Castle the telephone is Bishop's Castle 26 or 81, and at Much Wenlock, 203.

#### **Hospitals**

There is no change to record as regards the hospitals available for the districts. Particulars of these were given in the report for 1946.

#### **Nursing in the Home**

This work is carried out by the District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors, under the County Council's Scheme. Details of the work can be found in the report of the Shropshire Nursing Federation, and in that of the County Medical Officer of Health.



### Home Help Service

This service is administered by the County Council, and there are sub-offices at Church Stretton and at Ironbridge in the Wenlock Borough.

At Bishop's Castle there is a service administered by a committee, consisting of the Mayor and Aldermen of the town. A whole-time Home Help is employed and visits the sick poor in the Borough. This service is made possible by a legacy which was left to the town, and proves of great value in times of sickness. The Clerk to the Trustees is Mr. F. Lavender, Bishop's Castle.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics

These are under the control of the County Council and there are at present combined School Clinics and Welfare Centres at Church Stretton, Ironbridge and Bishop's Castle. There is also a Welfare Centre at Broseley. All these are well attended and appreciated by parents of infants and school children.

It is hoped that additional Clinics, etc., will be opened as soon as is possible in the Atcham Rural District and at Much Wenlock and Madeley. The chief difficulties are in getting suitable buildings and staff. Some of the children in the Atcham R.D. attend the Shrewsbury Borough Clinics by arrangement, but this often entails a long journey for the mothers.

The days of meeting of the various Clinics, etc., are as follows:

Bishop's Castle	...	First and third Friday afternoons each month.
Church Stretton	...	First and third Thursday afternoons each month.
Ironbridge	...	Friday afternoons—weekly.
Broseley	...	Thursday afternoons—fortnightly.

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### Venereal Diseases Clinic

This is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, at the following times:

Males	Females
Tues. and Fri., 6-8 p.m.	Mon. & Wed., 2-4 p.m.

### Chest Clinic

This is held at 17 Belmont, Shrewsbury (telephone number, Shrewsbury 3068). Cases are usually referred to the Clinic by private practitioners.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

Children can be immunised at Schools, Welfare Centres and Clinics, or at home, by their own family doctors. Application should be made to the County Health Department, College Hill, Shrewsbury.

## **SECTION C**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

This section of the report deals with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, public cleansing and other matters which concern environmental hygiene. Particulars of these services in the various districts are given in the following pages and I am indebted to the Surveyors and Sanitary Inspectors of the different Councils for much of the information regarding water supplies, etc., etc.

As there was a long period of dry weather during the summer months, shortage of water was experienced in several areas and particulars are given under the reports on the districts.

In the Wenlock Borough all the water supplies have now been taken over by the East Shropshire Water Board, who are now the responsible authority for the various supplies in this and other areas. Chlorination of the water from the Much Wenlock supplies has been carried on throughout the year and this has given satisfactory results.

In the Atcham R.D. the new extensions to the Council's two main piped supplies have been commenced. These involve 50 miles of new mains and will supply a further 703 houses, 172 farms and 7 schools.

At Church Stretton the dry weather seriously affected the supply which comes from the Longmynd. Only by cutting off the supply for a period each day was it possible to prevent a serious position arising. The Council have now made arrangements whereby an emergency supply can be obtained from a pool in the Carding Mill Valley should another shortage occur in the future.

The supply at Bishop's Castle was satisfactory as regards purity and the supply is chlorinated and filtered. There is however a tendency for the supply to run short in the autumn owing partly to lack of adequate storage facilities.

In the Clun R.D. the supplies are very numerous and at present none of the Council's supplies are treated before being distributed. They are, however, remarkably free from organic pollution and the Council have several new schemes for new supplies under consideration. Difficulties have been met with as regards a water supply for the proposed new houses at Snailbeach, and these have not yet been solved.

### **ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT**

#### **Water Supplies**

The Surveyor (Mr. J. R. Sockett) reports no shortage of supply was experienced from the Council's two main supplies. Consumption increased by nearly 10 m. gallons during the year owing to the prolonged dry periods experienced.

The following figures show the number of properties supplied by these two schemes :—

Properties served				Changes
Domestic connections	...	...	736	+19
Keys for stand pipes	...	...	732	—20
Metered supply	...	...	332	+15

Monthly samples of the two supplies are taken and these were all satisfactory. Samples of the waters before any treatment were also satisfactory. Chlorination is, however, carried out as a safety measure.

A start has now (1950) been made on the new extensions and a length of half-a-mile of pipe line was laid by the end of the year on the Longden-Pulverbatch extension. The extensions will include 50 miles of pipe line and it is expected that a further 703 houses, 172 farms and 7 schools will be supplied by these extensions. The population concerned will be about 3,163 persons.

Among the future plans as regards water supplies are the following :—

#### I. WEST ATCHAM AND PIMHILL SUPPLIES

Completion of 50 miles extension scheme.

#### II. EAST ATCHAM WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Negotiations are in hand for the purpose of the bore-hole and plant at Atcham Aerodrome. A 14 days pumping test for yield was carried out and provisional approval was obtained from the Ministry of Health to extract up to 200,000 gallons a day. It is proposed to supply the Eastern portion of the district north of the River Severn from this source.

#### III. SOUTH ATCHAM WATER SUPPLY

The purchase of a bulk supply from the Borough of Shrewsbury to supply the eastern part of the district south of the Severn is under consideration.

Apart from the above supplies the district gets water from wells and springs and from small private and village supplies. Probably about one third of the houses in the whole area have a piped supply laid on to the house.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

CROSS HOUSES.—The sewerage and disposal scheme for the village was approximately half-completed at the end of the year.

BAYSTON HILL.—It was hoped that it would be possible to take the sewage from Bayston Hill into a new sewer to be laid by the Shrewsbury Corporation, but this has not yet been laid and meanwhile complaints have been received regarding the pollution coming from the present arrangement near the brook at Bayston



Hill. As this is a matter of urgency it is hoped that some temporary arrangement can be come to with the Corporation to make use of one of their existing sewers until the new one is laid. The Surveyor reports that the system in use at present is seriously overloaded.

MINSTERLEY.—This village is in urgent need of a disposal scheme and housing will be held up until one is provided. A temporary scheme has been made for the new Council Houses in the meantime. Some of the houses in the village appear to have no proper sewers at all and sewage finds its way into the roadside drains and then nuisance arises when flooding takes place.

CRESSAGE.—At present the question of an adequate water supply has not been settled and until it is the provision of sewerage will have to be postponed.

PONTESBURY.—The disposal plant here is in a very poor state as has been mentioned in previous reports. It is 40 years old and is now very overloaded owing to many new houses being connected to the system and indoor sanitation being put into many of the older houses. The filter beds are constantly getting choked and parts of them fall down so that proper purification is impossible. A new disposal plant is required here. Pollution of the brook by the effluent is also taking place.

NEW HOUSING SITES.—Small disposal works have been constructed to deal with drainage from housing sites at: Wroxeter, Upton Magna, Dorrington, Westbury, Wattlesboro', Alberbury.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

There has been no change in the system of fortnightly collections throughout the district. Disposal is at various tips in the area.

### **Pests Control**

This is now the duty of the Council, but at the end of the year no arrangements had so far been arrived at.

## **BISHOP'S CASTLE BOROUGH**

### **Water Supply**

The summer and autumn of 1949 were dry on the whole and there was some shortness in the supply. This necessitated the cutting off of the water for several hours each day and the public were asked to use as little water as possible until conditions became more normal.

The Council have had under consideration the question of how best to increase the amount of water available for the town, but so far no decision has been reached on the matter. Advice was sought on the question from a water engineer and among his suggestions was one to raise the level of the intake at Maesgwyn and

this has been done. Negotiations were begun also with regard to the possibility of getting an additional supply from a bore-hole at Colebatch. A fourteen day test of this supply gave a yield of approximately 5,000 gallons per hour.

The demand for water in the town will most certainly increase, so that the sooner the problem of the supply is solved the better.

During the year nine reports were received on water samples and these all were satisfactory. The water is chlorinated and filtered before going to supply. With the exception of a few houses on the outskirts of the town all the houses are on the town supply. The remaining houses get their water from wells, some of which are not satisfactory.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

Approximately 373 of the 416 houses are connected to the main sewers the remaining ones having earth or pail closets. All the new Council Houses built during the year have been connected.

The last report on a sample of sewage effluent was given in the report for 1949 (page 21), and showed the effluent to be satisfactory.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

This is undertaken weekly and is by contract. Refuse is tipped at Moat Hill above the town.

## **CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT**

### **Water Supplies**

Owing to the dry summer experienced the supply of water in the New Pool Hollow Reservoir fell from its normal capacity of 10 m. gallons when full to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. gallons in September. The normal weekly consumption of water is about 800,000 gallons, but during June it rose to 1,130,000 gallons per week. It was therefore found necessary to limit the consumption of water in the district and this was done from August 20th until October 29th. The building of new houses and the connecting of some of the older houses to the mains will undoubtedly increase the demand for water in the future and it is probable that the Council will have to seek for additional sources of supply sooner or later. Gaugings which have been taken by other authorities both at the north and south ends of the Longmynd Range show that the amount of water coming from these hills is very variable indeed, being high in the rainier months of the year, but decreasing rapidly in drier weather.

The three supplies are all chlorinated and the results of sampling have been satisfactory except in the case of the All Stretton source of supply from which unsatisfactory samples have from time to time been obtained. This source is far from satisfactory as it is unprotected and hence liable to pollution. In addition to this the

chlorination has not been as regularly and efficiently carried out in the past as it should have been. The Council have not yet taken over the supply although negotiations are proceeding towards this being done.

All the new houses completed during the year have been connected to the mains supply except one at All Stretton.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

The new houses have all been connected to the sewers in Church Stretton. No new sewers were laid apart from these connections. It is hoped that the work of increasing the dimension of the main sewer in the Narrows District will be commenced in 1950. This is to obviate the blowing off of the man-hole covers.

The sewage disposal works have functioned well during the year and are kept in good order and no nuisance has arisen. No sample of the effluent was examined but observation of the stream at the point where the effluent enters it showed that it was a very dilute effluent indeed. In dry weather the estimated flow on to the beds is as low as 40,000 gallons per day but in wet weather this rises to 140,000 gallons or more due to surface water getting into the sewers.

### **New Sewerage Schemes**

The All Stretton new disposal works and sewers have not yet been commenced, and this delay is holding up housing in that area. It is to be hoped that this scheme will soon be begun.

There is also a scheme for the sewerage of Little Stretton and for the re-laying of some of the sewers on the main Church Stretton system both of which the Council have had under consideration during the year.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Refuse is collected weekly throughout the district. At the tip there is rather a large area on which rubbish is being tipped and this results in a certain amount of paper being blown about but no nuisance is created.

The two men who are employed with the collecting vehicle have also to try and keep the tip in order at the end of the week. To keep it properly it would be necessary to employ a man whole time at it and also there would have to be a supply of soil for covering each day's deposit of rubbish. This covering of the exposed material daily is especially necessary in the summer months as otherwise there is apt to be a plague of flies.

Rats are kept under control by arrangement with the Ludlow R.D. Council, whose employee gives a proportion of his time to dealing with rats, etc., in the Council's area.



## CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

### Water Supplies

The summer of 1949 was a dry one and complaints of shortage of water were therefore received from several of the districts which depend on wells and springs for their water supply.

During the year 83 reports were received on the bacteriological examination of water samples, many of these being taken from suggested new sources of supply. As regards the public supplies under the Council's control, unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the following: Marton, Clun, Chirbury.

The Council's new scheme for Aston-on-Clun and Clungunford was not completed by the end of the year, but progress has now been made with laying of the mains and it is expected that the scheme will soon be completed.

So far no supply has yet been obtained for the proposed new housing estate at Snailbeach although several possible sources have been investigated. The six houses already built receive a supply from the Scott Level but this is not sufficient for a larger number of houses. Efforts to obtain a supply from the mains of a neighbouring authority were unsuccessful. It was decided not to proceed with the plan of taking water from the Boat Level, as this would have entailed the Council having to obtain the mineral rights over a large area. Reports have also been obtained on the probability of securing a supply by sinking a bore-hole in the neighbourhood and copies of these reports have been sent to the Ministry of Health.

Mr. H. A. Elliott, the Surveyor has supplied the following notes on the Council's supplies:—

CLUN.—It was necessary to pump from the supplementary bore-hole from the end of July to the end of October. The minimum yield from the springs was on September 17th, when the flow was 10,601 gallons per day. As a result of heavy rains the flow increased to 20,000 gallons per day on October 19th. The minimum yield from the bore-hole was also on September 17th, when the flow was 3,000 gallons per day.

CLUNBURY.—A temporary shortage occurred here and the supply was restricted for about 14 days.

KEMPTON.—Pumping from the bore-hole was commenced on July 19th, and finished on October 20th. There was no restriction of the supply.

CHAPEL LAWN AND BUCKNELL.—The flow of the springs fell to the point where it was just sufficient and no more for the supply required. At Bucknell there were occasional restrictions and the supply to some of the houses on higher ground failed at some periods. The Council decided to provide a larger storage tank at

Pentre, the other alternative of seeking a supplementary supply being also considered.

**CLUNGUNFORD.**—The supply was not restricted during the year. The new scheme for Clungunford, Broome and Aston-on-Clun is under construction.

**MARTON.**—The supply fell to 5,000 gallons per day at the driest period. The Council decided to sink a bore-hole in order to supplement the supply. Steps were taken to prevent wastage at certain farms. The purity of this supply is variable.

**CHIRBURY.**—There was no restriction of the supply to the village. The new bore-hole gave an adequate yield for all purposes.

**NEWCASTLE-ON-CLUN.**—There was a shortage of water here and this was relieved by the pumping of water from a small spring near the reservoir. Bacteriological reports on this supply were unsatisfactory and a new supply will be required as the present one is not satisfactory either as regards quantity or quality.

**MARDU.**—A shortage was experienced here and the Council decided to sink a bore-hole in 1950 to supply this hamlet.

**CLUNTON, BROMLOW, WORTHEN AND LLANFAIRWATERDINE.**—There was no shortage or restriction at any of these places.

### **New Water Schemes**

During 1949 the scheme for the supply of water to Chirbury, Marton, Rorrington, Priest Weston, Bent Lont, More, Linley, Norbury and Wentnor were under consideration by the Ministry of Health. The Clungunford and Aston on Clun Scheme, as previously mentioned, is being carried out.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

At Marton, in connection with the housing scheme, a scheme for the sewerage of all the houses in the village was prepared and approved and a contract entered into. Elsewhere in the area small disposal schemes were constructed in connection with the Council's housing estates and these are in operation at Newcastle-on-Clun, Brockton (Worthen), Chirbury and Snailbeach.

At Clun it will be necessary to carry out the sewage disposal scheme already prepared before the new houses can be erected there. This scheme will deal with the sewage from the whole of Clun.

There are two small plants at Bucknell for dealing with the sewage from Council Houses there. At Lydbury North there is also a small disposal works.

### **Refuse Disposal**

The schemes for collecting refuse at Knighton and Clun remain as before. At the end of 1949 consideration was given to the collection of refuse at Lydbury North, Plowden and at Brockton.

The Ministry of Health has now made an Order declaring that the cost of collection of refuse shall be special expenses chargeable to the Parish of Lydbury North and the collection of refuse will soon commence.

The Parish of Bedstone is likewise asking the Council to undertake the collection of refuse in Bedstone Village.

The Parish Councils of Hôpesay and Chirbury are considering arrangements for refuse collection and are proposing to pay the costs thereof by means of voluntary contributions and profits from social functions.

The difficulty in organising a general collection in the Rural District is that owing to the scattered nature of the dwellings and the population it will be impossible to collect refuse from a large proportion of the houses and in some parishes such as Bettys-y-Crwyn it would be almost impossible to give any refuse collection service to any part of the parish because there is no village in the parish and there are not more than four houses in any one place.

## BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

### Water Supplies

The chief supplies to the area are those at Harrington and Beckbury, Much Wenlock, Little Wenlock and the two wells at Homer. The supplies are now under the control of the East Shropshire Water Board.

During the year there was a shortage of water at Little Wenlock, and water had to be carried from the mains at Horsehay to the village. The Board have commenced a bore at Little Wenlock with a view to increasing the supply there. The reservoir has now been covered.

As regards purity of supplies a total of 92 samples were reported on during the year and as regards the main supplies these were satisfactory from a bacteriological standpoint. The following are particulars of the various samples reported on :—

Source		Number of Samples		
		Total	Satisfactory	Non-satis.
Much Wenlock	...	40	40	—
Harrington & Beckbury				
(a) At source	...	10	10	—
(b) At Broseley	...	17	17	—
Little Wenlock Supply		4	2	2
Other samples	...	21	9	12

The chlorinating plant installed at Much Wenlock (both wells) has proved satisfactory and if regularly and carefully carried out this treatment of the water ensures a safe supply for the town.

The attention of the Water Board was called to the unsatisfactory samples from the Little Wenlock Supply which is not yet chlorinated or filtered.

At Preen's Eddy there is no progress to report with regard to the extension of the mains to this area.

A sample of water taken from the supply to the Council Houses at Bourton was satisfactory.

Two samples from the wells at Homer were also satisfactory.

### **Sewers and Sewerage**

The Inspector reports that new sewers have been laid in connection with the Council's new housing schemes at Broseley and Madeley. No reports have been received on sewage effluents during the year. Particulars of the various disposal schemes will be found in previous reports.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

During the year the Council decided to have a collection of refuse made throughout the area. This has now been commenced (1950) and a weekly collection is made in the built-up areas and a less frequent collection in the more rural parts of the district. Disposal is by "tipping."

### **Inspections by Sanitary Inspector**

Housing inspections made	...	...	...	532
Complaints received	...	...	...	42
Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	4
Preliminary notices complied with	...	...	...	4
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	2
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	2
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	6
Privies repaired	...	...	...	14
Water closets repaired...	...	...	...	7
Over-crowding reported (cases)	...	...	...	28
Over-crowding abated	...	...	...	18
New Water Closets fitted	...	...	...	21
Houses repaired	...	...	...	81
Houses disinfected (vermin)	...	...	...	9

### **Smoke Nuisances**

Nuisances have occurred at two factories in the Madeley Ward during the year. Action was taken with the management and in one case a Statutory Notice was served.



**FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

Particulars of visits paid, inspections made and notices served under the above Act.

Area	No. on Register	No. of Inspect.	Written notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
Atcham R.D.	... 73	168	5	36	32
Bishop's Castle	... —	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	... 21	32	—	—	—
Clun R.D. ...	... —	—	—	—	—
Wenlock M.B.	... 115	120	5	8	8
Totals ...	... <u>209</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>40</u>



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

The number of new houses completed in 1949 again shows an increase over the number completed in the previous year but progress is still slow as compared with the demand for new houses. The actual figures of houses completed were as follows : 1948=241, 1949=313.

The total for 1949 includes 96 ex-army huts converted in the Atcham R.D. as compared with 38 in the previous year. The actual number of traditional houses built by the various Councils during the year was 156 as compared with a total of 151 in 1948. These figures include Airey houses and Swedish timber houses.

Among the causes of delay in the carrying out of programmes has been the difficulty of getting tenders low enough to be approved by the Ministry, and this especially applies to sites where only two or four houses are to be built. Tenders are more easily obtained when a large number of houses are to be built on one site. Delay has also been experienced in some districts owing to the difficulty of obtaining a satisfactory water supply. It is essential that before any site works are carried out there should be a satisfactory water supply assured and also that facilities will exist for adequate sewerage and drainage schemes to be provided.

Owing to the above difficulties it has not been possible for some of the rural Councils to build houses in small numbers where they may be most required, i.e., close to the farms where men may be employed in agricultural work. Houses have therefore been built on sites where water is available and where reasonable tenders can be obtained. This means of course that farm-workers may have to travel further to their work and this is a great draw-back especially as regards to stock-men. On the other hand if Councils do not make full use of the number of houses allotted to them in any year this may delay or reduce any further allotment.

### Housing Act, 1949

This is an Act to amend the Housing Act, 1936, and to promote the improvement of housing accommodation by authorising the making of contributions out of the Exchequer and of grants by local authorities.

In Section I of this new Act the reference to houses suitable for the working classes in certain provisions of the Act of 1936 is deleted. It is now the duty of the Local Authority to consider the housing conditions and needs of all the inhabitants.

Sections 15-18 give the Local Authority power to acquire property for the purpose of (a) providing dwellings by means of the con-

version of houses or other buildings, and (b) improving dwellings.

Section 20 empowers local authorities to make grants, referred to in the Act as "improvement grants," to private owners (a) for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings, and (b) for the improvement of existing dwellings. Improvement grants are not given for ordinary repairs to a house. The dwellings for which a grant is given must conform, after improvements, to the standard of a fit house and must provide satisfactory accommodation for at least 30 years.

#### HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1949 :—

Area			Number of Houses					
		Trad.	Airey	Swed.	Pte.	Huts	Flats	Total
Atcham R.D.	...	2	36	—	23	96	11	168
Bishop's Castle M.B.		17	—	—	—	—	—	17
Church Stretton U.D.		25	—	—	7	—	17	49
Clun R.D.	...	14	18	4	1	—	—	37
Wenlock M.B.	...	40	—	—	1	—	1	42
South West Salop		98	54	4	32	96	29	313

#### HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1949 :—

Atcham R.D. ...	30	6	—	13	65	15	129
Bishop's Castle M.B.	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Church Stretton U.D.	18	—	—	6	—	—	24
Clun R.D. ...	8	—	—	3	—	—	11
Wenlock M.B. ...	36	—	—	4	—	—	40
South West Salop	92	6	—	27	65	15	205

It will be seen from the above figures that a total of 313 housing units were made available during the year. Of this total 217 were of a permanent type and 96 were converted huts.

In previous years since the war the number of houses completed has been as follows :—1945=2, 1946=69, 1947=162, 1948=241.

The number under construction at the end of the year was 205, which is less than the number under construction on 31st December, 1948.

Structural improvements or repairs to existing cottages have been confined chiefly to essential repairs needed to make the dwellings habitable. It remains to be seen whether the new "improvement grants" under the Housing Act, 1949, will be applied for by owners of property in large numbers or not.

**ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT**

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	5,632
Number of Council Houses	...	...	500

**Houses completed in 1949—**

Council Houses : Traditional		2	
Airey	...	36	
Converted huts		96	
Flats	...	11	
		—	145
Private enterprise	...	...	23
Total new housing units	...	...	168

**Houses under construction as at 31/12/49—**

Council Houses : Traditional		30	
Airey	...	6	
Flats	...	15	
Huts	...	65	
		—	116
Private Enterprise	...	...	13
Total Houses under construction	...		129
Total number of houses allotted for 1950 by the Ministry	...	...	30
Total number of applications for houses as at 31/12/49	...	...	791

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The total number of houses, flats, etc., made available during the year was 168 as compared with 131 in the previous year. Of this number 96 are converted Army and R.A.F. huts which have been taken over by the Council and made habitable. Taking into account the 65 huts being converted at present and 38 converted in 1948, there are now approximately 200 of these huts in the area which are being used as houses and are under the control of the local authority. In the case of huts on other sites many of these are occupied by families who come from outside the district and are living under most unsatisfactory conditions. In many cases no rent is paid at all for the huts.

**Sites of New Houses.**

The following are the numbers of new houses (Airey and traditional) on the various sites which were completed in 1949, and the figures are also given for houses under construction as at 31st December, 1949, and for those to be commenced in 1950.

Sites of houses.	No. completed in 1949	No. under construction as at 31/12/49	No. to be commenced in 1950
Ford ...	4	—	—
Upton Magna ...	4	6	—
Minsterley ...	6	2	—
Wroxeter ...	6	—	—
Dorrington ...	6	—	—
Alberbury ...	6	—	—
Wattlesboro' ...	6	—	—
Condoover ...	—	6	—
Cruckton ...	—	8	—
Eaton Constantine	—	6	—
Cross Houses ...	—	8	8
Pontesbury ...	—	—	10
Atcham ...	—	—	12
Buildwas ...	—	—	10
Totals ...	38	36	40

### BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Number of inhabited houses ...	416
Number of Council Houses ...	68
Council Houses completed in 1949 ...	17
Houses under construction as at 31/12/49 ...	nil
Houses to be commenced in 1950 ...	10
Housing applications (approximate number) ...	50

### New Houses

During the year the remaining seventeen houses at Corick's Meadow were completed and are now let. There are now twenty houses on this site which is a good one and all the houses are on the main water supply and connected with the town's sewerage system.

### Future Programme

The ten houses allotted for 1949 have not yet been commenced, so these will be carried forward to the 1950 programme. Meanwhile no further allotment of houses has been made by the Ministry.

### Licences for Private Houses

One application was received for a licence to build a house by private enterprise.

## Unfit Houses

No survey of the houses in the town has yet been undertaken and therefore it is difficult to estimate the number of houses which might be classified as unfit for habitation. There are undoubtedly some houses which are unfit according to the standards recommended by the Ministry of Health, but the numbers should not be large. In other cases major structural alterations will be required to make the houses fit.

Owing to the frequent changes of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor in the last three years it has been almost impossible to secure any continuity in the work of classifying houses according to their fitness or otherwise.

Meanwhile only essential repairs are being carried out on such houses as are reported as being damp or otherwise in urgent need of repair.

## Housing Act, 1949

Under this Act "improvement grants" may be given by the local authority to such house owners who agree to spend from £100 to £600 on improving their property. Certain conditions are of course applied—e.g., the property must have a life of 30 years after the improvements have been carried out. It is hoped that house-owners will avail themselves of this new provision and thus improve the condition of existing houses.

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### CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	791
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	96
Houses completed in 1949—				
(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	18
(b) Private (flats)	...	...	...	17
(c) Private enterprise	...	...	...	7
			—	
	Total	...	...	42
Number of Houses under construction as at 31/12/49—				
(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	12
(b) Private enterprise	...	...	...	6
			—	
	Total	...	...	18
Number of applications for houses	...	...	...	150
Number of houses allotted by Ministry for 1950				not yet decided



## New Houses

The 18 permanent houses built by the Council were completed during the year on the Central Avenue Site. (I).

At Stretton House the County Council have constructed 13 flats for officials. Four other flats have also been made available in other houses.

In addition to the above seven houses were built by private enterprise. This makes a total of 42 houses completed in the year under review.

## Building Programme

The Council have not been able to build the eight houses at All Stretton owing to the delay in the provision of the new sewage disposal plant there.

The 12 Council Houses on the Lutwyche Road site are under construction and in addition to these the Council hope to commence the building of a further 22 houses on the Central Avenue No. 2 Site during the year.

## Overcrowding

The Surveyor reports that no new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year. Nine preliminary notices were served on various housing matters under the Housing Act, 1936, and these were all complied with.

## Re-conditioning

During the year several properties were re-conditioned and it is hoped that under the Housing Act, 1949, owners of unsatisfactory property will apply for grants and have the houses improved. Owing to the restriction of rents and also the high cost of repairs only essential repairs have been carried out of late years on most properties which are let and one cannot see much hope of this state of affairs altering in the near future.

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### CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	2,964
Number of Council Houses	...	...	153
Number of houses completed in 1949	...		
(a) By the Council	...	...	36
(b) Private enterprise	...	...	1
			—
	Total	...	37
Houses under construction at 31/12/49			
(a) Council Houses	...	...	8
(b) Private	...	...	3
			—
	Total	...	11
Total applications for houses (approx.)			150

### New Houses

The total of 36 houses completed by the Council is the highest in any one year since the war. Eighteen Airey houses and four Swedish timber houses were completed at Brockton (Worthen). Six traditional houses were built at Snailbeach and the remaining eight at Chirbury. All of these are now tenanted.

### Houses under construction

Of the eight traditional houses being built at the end of the year, four were at Marton No. 1 and four at Clungunford sites.

### Programme for 1950

No fixed allotment of houses for 1950 has been made by the Ministry of Health as there are still a total of 22 houses from previous allotments to be completed.

It is expected that during the year houses will be commenced at the following sites:—

SITE				TYPE OF HOUSES			NUMBER
Amblecote	...	...	...	Swedish Timber	...	...	4
Clun	...	...	...	Swedish Timber	...	...	6
Lydham	...	...	...	Traditional	...	...	16
Kempton	...	...	...	Traditional	...	...	8
Shadwell	...	...	...	Traditional	...	...	4
Marston No. 2	...	...	...	Traditional	...	...	4

At Snailbeach the Council intend to build a further 22 houses on the site which has been chosen for the new village, but it is unlikely that these will be commenced this year, as no satisfactory water supply has yet been obtained.

### BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,543
Number of Council Houses	...	...	722
New houses completed in 1949 :			
(a) By the Council	...	...	40
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	1
Houses under construction at 31/12/49 :			
(a) Council houses	...	...	38
(b) Private houses	...	...	4
Applications for Council houses (as at 31/12/49) :			
Madeley Ward	...	...	411
Broseley Ward...	...	...	120
Much Wenlock...	...	...	127
Barrow Ward	...	...	15
Total number of applications	...	...	673
Houses allotted by the Ministry for the year 1950	70		

### New Houses

All the new houses completed in 1949 were of traditional (permanent) type and were situated as follows :—

Much Wenlock	...	...	...	...	12
Madeley	...	...	...	...	20
Church Street	...	...	...	18	
Beech Road	...	...	...	2	
Broseley	...	...	...	...	8
New Road	...	...	...	2	
Jackfield	...	...	...	6	

### Houses under construction as at 31/12/49

The sites of the houses under construction at the end of the year were as follows :—

SITE	NUMBER OF HOUSES		
Church Street, Madeley	...	...	4
Beech Road, Madeley...	...	...	24
New Road, Broseley	...	...	8

### Housing Programme, 1950

In addition to the completion of the 36 houses which were under construction at the end of 1949, the Council intend to build 50 Wimpey houses at the Church Street site, Madeley. A further allotment of 20 traditional houses has been given, of which 4 have been given to private building and the remaining 16 have been apportioned as follows :—

Madeley—Beech Road site	...	...	4
Broseley—New Road site	...	...	8*
Much Wenlock...	...	...	4

\* Of these eight houses four are to be let to tenants nominated by the Barrow Ward Committee.

The Council have also been able to get a further allotment of 32 traditional houses to be built on the Church Road, Madeley, site.

Since 1946 the number of houses built by the Council in the Borough has been as follows :—

YEAR	HOUSES		
1946	...	...	39
1947	...	...	63
1948	...	...	62
1949	...	...	38
1950	...	...	120*



\*This number includes all houses it is hoped will be completed this year and also the number for which an allotment has been made and which may be commenced during the year, although all of them may not be completed.

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The Council have therefore built 202 houses since the war and a further 120 are planned for. It will be seen that in a short time one-fifth of all the houses in the Borough will have been built by the Council. It may also be that many of the older houses will have ultimately to be taken over by the Council and made fit if possible, as it is becoming obvious that private owners can no longer afford to carry out extensive repairs to old property owing to the small rents received and the very high cost of all repairs. Such action by the Council is now allowed for under the Housing Act, 1949 (Sections 15-18).

The Inspector reports that 18 cases of overcrowding were abated during the year and repairs were carried out in the case of 81 houses.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### **Model Byelaws**

In September the Ministry of Food published new Model Byelaws with regard to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food. These have been considered by the Councils, and it is expected that they will be adopted in each district. They are made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and aim at improving the conditions under which food is sold and delivered. Among the provisions of the Bye-Laws are the following :—

- (a) Every person who handles, wraps or delivers food shall observe cleanliness both as regards himself and his clothing.
  - (b) No person knowingly suffering from or being a carrier of any disease shall handle, wrap or deliver any food so as to give rise to any risk of spreading the disease.
  - (c) Food must be protected from dust, mud, filth, animals, rodents, flies, insects and other sources of contamination. To ensure this, food must be covered if necessary.
  - (d) All counters, slabs, etc., and all utensils brought into contact with food must be cleaned as often as is necessary. Vehicles used in delivering food must also be kept clean.
  - (e) Suitable receptacles must be kept to hold refuse, and must be emptied at least once a day.
  - (f) Notices must be affixed near sanitary conveniences requesting employees to wash their hands after using the convenience.
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#### **Meat Inspection**

The Ministry of Food's central slaughter-houses are at Shrewsbury and Craven Arms and there are no private slaughter-houses licenced in the districts at present.

During the year there has been no outbreak of Food Poisoning in any of the areas.

Shop-keepers request the Inspectors to examine articles of foodstuffs which appear unfit for human consumption. After examination such articles are destroyed if found to be unfit.

## **Milk**

New regulations dealing with milk came into force on 1st October, 1949. These included the following :—

Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Among the changes brought about by these various Acts and Regulations are the following :—

Milk production at the farm has now passed from the Local Authorities' control to that of the Ministry of Agriculture. This applies to designated milk as well as raw milk.

The supervision of Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk has passed to the Local Health Authority, who are the Food and Drug Authority. In Shropshire this is the County Council. It will also be the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that dairy farms have a satisfactory water supply.

The Ministry of Agriculture will keep a register of dairy farms, but other dairies must be registered by the Local Authority. Supplementary licences to sell milk will also be issued by the Local Authority.

Additional powers are given to Medical Officers of Health with regard to the control of infectious diseases which may be spread through milk.

Co-operation between the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and those of the Local Authorities is advised in the Regulations in order to ensure the smooth running of the various Acts and Regulations.

## **Heat Treated Milk**

Pasteurising Licences were granted to the following dairies during the year :—

Hanwood Dairies.

Hygienic Dairies, Ironbridge.

Frequent sampling of the milk from these dairies was undertaken and the results were satisfactory. Hanwood Dairies were also granted a licence to pasteurise T.T. milk in September, 1949.

These licences will now be granted by the County Council as already mentioned.

## Ice Cream

Inspection of all premises where Ice Cream is sold or manufactured has been continued during the year. A total of 126 samples were collected and sent for bacteriological examination at the Laboratory, Shrewsbury. More than half of these were taken in the Wenlock Borough, where there are a large number of sellers. Ice Cream is now graded into four categories and in cases where the samples fell into Grades III or IV visits were paid to the premises concerned and advice given with a view to improving the methods of manufacture and handling of the commodity.

As pointed out in last year's report it has been found that ice cream, which is manufactured by one of the larger firms, and is wrapped before being sent to the retailer, gives the best results on sampling. Small dealers have therefore been advised to deal only in such wrapped or pre-packed ice cream, which does not need to be handled at all but merely sold as it is received. By this means the chance of any contamination in the shops is eliminated.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1949

DISTRICT	Scarlet Fever			Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Measles			Acute Poliomyelitis			Puerperal Pyrexia			Pneumonia			Typhoid Para-typhoid			Erysipelas			Food Poisoning			Ophthalmia Neonatorum		
	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths			
Atcham R.D. ...	54	—	—	1	1	—	34	—	—	273	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	12	2	7	1	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bishop's Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clun R.D. ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Wenlock M.B. ...	12	2	—	1	1	1	8	—	—	218	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
S.W. Salop ...	76	3	—	2	2	1	44	—	—	623	—	1	1	1	—	3	3	—	22	2	16	1	1	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
Incidence rate per 1,000 of pop.:																																	
S.W. Salop ...	1.56			0.04			0.99			12.82			0.02			0.06			0.45			0.02			0.08				—			0.06	
England & Wales	1.63			0.04			2.39			8.95			0.13			6.31			0.80			0.02			0.19				0.14			—	



## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No serious outbreak of infectious disease took place during the year. Measles was prevalent among the children, but there were not so many cases of Whooping Cough as in the previous year.

A total of 76 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and this is about an average number for the districts. All the cases were of a mild type, and it was only in special cases, where home nursing was difficult, that the patients had to be removed to hospital. The more serious type of Scarlet Fever with its severe complications is now very rare indeed in this country.

After a period of two years without any cases of Diphtheria being reported there were two notifications of this disease, one in the Atcham R.D. and one in the Wenlock Borough. This latter case proved fatal. In neither case had the child been protected against the disease. It is still the duty of every parent to have their children immunised against this disease at the age of nine to twelve months and ample facilities are provided by the County Council for this service either at Infant Welfare Centres, at Schools, or by private practitioners if requested by the parents. There were no further "contact" cases from the two notified nor was it possible to trace any source from which these cases had become infected.

A case of Typhoid Fever was notified in the Atcham R.D. in the closing days of the year. The patient had been infected outside of the country, having been a passenger on an infected ship, the S.S. "Moultan." She was removed to hospital and there were no other cases. The patient made a good recovery.

Only one case of Polio-myelitis was notified, in the Atcham R.D. No case of Food Poisoning was notified.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the numbers of notified cases on the registers of the districts as at the 31st December, 1949 :—

AREA	Pulmonary		Non-pulm.		Total	
	cases		cases		cases	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D. ...	61	27	44	36	105	63
Bishop's Castle ...	4	4	2	2	6	6
Church Stretton ...	13	10	7	4	20	14
Clun R.D. ...	22	22	21	15	43	37
Wenlock M.B. ...	31	19	17	25	48	44
	—	—	—	—	—	—
South West Salop...	131	82	91	82	222	164
	==	==	==	==	==	==

### New Cases Notified

A total of 47 new cases were notified during the year and of these 29 were of the pulmonary type and 18 were non-pulmonary. The new notifications in 1947 and 1948 were 48 and 39. The distribution of these new cases was as follows :—

AREA	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Atcham R.D. ...	6	10	7	7	30
Bishop's Castle ...	1	—	—	—	1
Church Stretton ...	1	—	1	1	3
Clun R.D. ...	2	2	—	—	4
Wenlock M.B. ...	6	1	1	1	9
	—	—	—	—	—
South West Salop	16	13	9	9	47
	==	==	==	==	==

The number of new pulmonary cases is three less than in 1948, but the total of 18 non-pulmonary cases notified is much higher than the number notified in 1948 (7).

### Deaths and Death-Rates

The total deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 20, and of these 17 were from the pulmonary type and 3 from the non-pulmonary type. The death-rate was 0.41 per 1,000 of the population. (Pulmon. = 0.35. Non-pulmon. = 0.06).

The following are the death-rates for the separate districts :—

District	Deaths (number)	Death-Rates		Total
		Pulmon.	Non-Pulm.	
Atcham R.D. ...	10	0.35	0.15	0.50
Bishop's Castle ...	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton ...	1	0.39	—	0.39
Clun R.D. ...	—	—	—	—
Wenlock M.B. ...	9	0.69	—	0.69
	—	—	—	—
South West Salop	20	0.35	0.06	0.41
	==	==	==	==

The death-rate for England and Wales from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.45 per 1,000.

## CAUSES OF DEATH — 1949

Cause of Death	Atcham R.D.	Bishop's Castle M.B.	Church Stretton U.D.	Clun M.B.	Wenlock M.B.	S.W. Salop
Heart Disease ...	102	4	19	47	72	244
Cancer ...	34	5	8	17	27	91
Intra-cranial Vas- cular Diseases ...	41	1	8	16	21	87
Bronchitis... ..	11	2	1	10	9	33
Violence ... ..	16	—	—	2	5	23
Tuberculosis—						
Pulmonary ...	7	—	1	—	9	
Other ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	20
Dis. of Circulation	2	—	2	3	13	20
Cong. Malf. Infts. and Prematurity	9	—	2	3	6	20
Pneumonia ... ..	7	1	—	2	7	17
Nephritis ... ..	5	4	—	1	2	12
Respiratory Diseases	3	—	1	2	2	8
Diseases of Diges- tion ... ..	3	—	—	1	2	6
All other causes ...	29	1	2	17	25	74
Totals ... ..	272	18	44	121	200	655





